

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An access brace as claimed in claim 4 wherein:~~ An access brace for a scaffold, said scaffold including a pair of bearers, a platform supported by said pair of bearers, and a guardrail system for surrounding said platform, said access brace comprising:

an elongate member having a first end and a second end;

first engaging means coupled to said first end;

second engaging means coupled to said second end, said first and second engaging means being configured to engage with said pair of bearers;

a first post extending from an intermediate portion of said elongate member, said first post [[is]] being located at a first distance from said first end of said elongate member; and

a second post extending from said intermediate portion of said elongate member, said second post [[is]] being located at a second distance from said first end of said elongate member, said second distance being greater than said first distance, and said first and second posts being configured to couple with an upright support of said guardrail system.

Claims 6-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An access brace as claimed in claim 7 wherein~~ An access brace for a scaffold, said scaffold including a pair of bearers, a platform supported by said pair of bearers, and a guardrail system for surrounding said platform, said access brace comprising:

a first elongate member having a first end and a second end;
first engaging means coupled to said first end;

second engaging means coupled to said second end, said first and second engaging means being configured to engage with said pair of bearers; and

a post extending from an intermediate portion of said first elongate member, said post being configured to couple with an upright support of said guardrail system;

a second elongate member arranged substantially parallel to said first elongate member; and

a support extending between said first and second elongate members for retaining said first and second elongate members in spaced relation, said support [[is]] being arranged substantially perpendicular to said first and second elongate members and [[is]] aligned with said post.

12. (Original) A scaffold comprising:

a frame arrangement including a first bearer extending between a first pair of vertical posts, and a second bearer extending between a second pair of vertical posts;

a platform supported by said first and second bearers;

an access brace including an elongate member having a first end and a second end, a first end hook coupled to said first end and engaged with said first bearer, a second end hook coupled to said second end and engaged with said second bearer, and a post extending from an intermediate portion of said elongate member, said post being located a predetermined distance from said first end; and

a guardrail system surrounding said platform, said guardrail system including an upright support coupled with said post, and said predetermined distance defining an opening in said guardrail system for access to said platform.

13. (Original) A scaffold as claimed in claim 12 wherein said post is a first post, said predetermined distance is a first distance, and said access brace further includes a second post extending from said intermediate portion of said elongate member, said second post being located at a second distance from said first end of said elongate member, said second distance being greater than said first distance, and said upright support is selectively coupled to one of said first and second posts.

14. (Original) A scaffold as claimed in claim 12 wherein said upright support of said guardrail system is a tubular member exhibiting an inner diameter, and said post exhibits an outer diameter that is smaller than said inner diameter such that said post fits within said tubular member.

15. (Original) A scaffold as claimed in claim 12 wherein said elongate member is a first elongate member, and said access brace further comprises:

a second elongate member arranged substantially parallel to said first elongate member; and

a support extending between said first and second elongate members for retaining said first and second elongate members in spaced relation.

16. (Original) A scaffold as claimed in claim 16 wherein said access brace further comprises a bracket coupled to said second elongate member and attached to one of said vertical posts.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).